Technology import and collaboration agreements

†1690. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of technology import and collaboration agreements finalised during 1984 and during 1985 upto the 30th June, 1985, category-wise:

(b) the total value of such agreements; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the usefulness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Government have aproved 752 and 440 proposals for Foreign collaborations during 1984 and 1985 (Jan.—30th June) respectively.

(b) Out of the proposals mentioned in (a) above, 258 proposals involved Financial participation by foreign companies amounting to Rs. 16855.34 lakhs.

(c) Follow up of these approvals and monitoring their implementation is the responsibility of various Administrative Ministries

Kothari's collaboration with M/s. General Foods Corporation, U.S.A.

1691. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what considerations weighed with Government in allowing M/s. Kothari to enter into collaboration with M/s. General Foods Corporation of U.S.A., the need for finance, or export commitments, or high technology requirements;

(b) if there is need for technology to make instant coffee and instant powdered soft drink what precisely is the technological contribution by General Foods for these two products; and

(c) what is the export obligation involved, (i) to hard currency area and (ii) to Rupee-area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) M/s Kothari General Foods Corporation, Madras, were allowed foreign collaboration with M/s. General Foods Corporatin of U.S.A., for manufacture of Soluble Coffee (freeze-dried) and Vegetable based Protein Products and Powdered Food Beverages on considerations of high technology involved in the production of the above mentioned items and the foreign exchange earnings expected out of exports by them. The technology involved in the production of the above items is of a highly sophisticated nature and the products to be produced are considered to be superior.

(c) The export obligation involved is 60 per cent of the production in terms of value for a period 5 years which may be extended by another 5 years at the discretion of the Government. There is no demarcation of above export obligation between hard currency area and Rupee currency area.

Tyre units

1692. SHRI DHULESWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some tyre units had resorted to unhealthy trade practices by passing off the duty concession allowed by Government as discount to the customers;

(b) if so, which are those tyre units; and

†Previously Unstarred Question No. 1023 transferred from 1st August, 1985.